SECRET

[redacted] 25X1

~~Copy ___ of ___~~

4 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Comptroller, OSA

SUBJECT : EXCOM Issue NO. 3
Advanced Aircraft R&D

25X1 REFERENCES : A - [redacted] dtd 1 Aug 1969, Subj: EXCOM Meeting - 8 Aug 1969

25X1 B - [redacted] dtd 30 July 1969, Subj: NRP Financial Program for 1970

Attached hereto are D/R&D comments on subject EXCOM Issue NO. 3 as requested in Reference A and as set forth in Reference B.

[redacted] 25X1A

Deputy for
Research and Development
Special Activities

Attachment: (1)
As stated

25X1A D/R&D/OSA/[redacted]anw/4 Aug 1969
Distribution:
Copy 1 - COMPT/OSA
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6 - D/R&D/OSA
7 - RB/OSA

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Attachment to [redacted] 25X1

ISSUE NO. 3 - ADVANCED AIRCRAFT R&D

BACKGROUND:

OSA is conducting a study of Advanced Aerodynamic Reconnaissance Systems under direction of the NRO. This two phase study approved by the EXCOM explores various methods of achieving a quick reaction strategic reconnaissance capability survivable primarily in the sovbloc defensive environment through the 1975-1980 period. The first phase, 25X1 [redacted]

The second phase of the study proposed for FY-1970 funding at [redacted] 25X1A would involve analysis, refinement, and further definition of one or more optimum candidate configurations in terms of hardware technology constraints in relation to the threat. This second phase would be scheduled for completion in June 1970.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Survivability is the key to any future reconnaissance system. Analysis of the threat and survivability form a major part of this study along with technological feasibility. This study is beginning to show that survival may be questionable for a nonmaneuvering vehicle following a constant or fixed track. We feel that the results of this kind of analysis coupled with the technological feasibility and constraints involved in such parametrics as maneuverability will greatly enhance the ability to weigh various options and decide upon future courses of action.

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RECOMMENDATION:

One of the final purposes of this study is to provide a firm basis for program cost estimates involving one or more options for a most survivable system. A decision at this time to discontinue the study predicated upon future year budgetary funding estimates would be to prejudge the outcome of the study.

The CIA recommends against Option d, and considers a, b, or c as possible alternates but recommends an additional option which would fund the FY-70 studies now; then have a special EXCOM review to determine further action when the results of the final FY-1970 funded studies are available.

DRAFT

ISSUE NO. 3 - ADVANCED AIRCRAFT R&D

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[redacted]

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RECOMMENDATION:

One of the purposes of this study is to provide a basis for program cost estimates for a survivable system. A decision at this time to discontinue would be to prejudge the outcome of the study and deny us valuable information. We recommend against Option d. We do recommend re-approval of the FY-70 studies now with an EXCOM review after their completion in June 1970 to determine further action.

[redacted]

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